

Meeting Date: January 17, 2008

Agenda Item No. 21

Agenda Item: Wolf Population Management Plan Update

Approved by: _____

Prepared by: Steve Nadeau

Background:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is planning on publishing a delisting rule on wolves by the end of February 2008. The Department has developed a Draft Wolf Population Management Plan that outlines regulated wolf harvest and population management. The Commission directed staff to collect public comment on the Draft Wolf Population Management Plan at the last commission meeting in November.

Policy issues:

There are no policy issues prior to finalizing the plan for adoption. This presentation will be primarily to present a summary of the public open houses, and what the public comments and possible changes to the plan look like to date.

Public Involvement Process:

A broad-based 7-member stakeholder group was formed to help develop the plan. A public survey was conducted of 1,000 Idaho citizens, 1,000 hunters, and 1,000 livestock producers. The public comment period on the Plan ran 43 days from November 19 through December 31. Ten public open houses were held around the state in November and December and the public were requested to comment on the wolf plan either online or in writing.

Justification:

Our level of management planning and implementation has increased over the last few years, and will continue to do so. The transition to full state management has been ongoing since 2002 and we are preparing to take over management of wolves as a big game animal and are developing Idaho's wolf harvest and population management strategies.

Action Requested:

None.

Staff Recommendations:

None.